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A NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATE.

Recently a series of tests has been made here to determine the speed of the new "Sigma" plate made by the Lumière North American Company, Ltd., of Burlington, Vermont. The comparison was made by exposure times between the Lumière plate and the fastest plates heretofore on the market. A series of exposures on the sky was made with a one-prism spectrograph attached to the 36-inch refractor. The plates were then developed until chemical fog began to appear, with the following developer* :—

<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>
Water, 900 ^{cc}	Water, 900 ^{cc}
Oxalic acid, 1 gram	Lumière's formosulphite, 120 grams
Pyro, 30 grams	
Using 1 part of A, 1 part of B, 2 parts of water.	

Designating the Lumière plates by *L* and the others by *X*, we have the following list, arranged in order of density of spectrum, braces connecting those nearly equivalent :—

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X \ 5^s \\ L \ 2 \end{array} \right.$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X \ 20^s \\ L \ 10 \end{array} \right.$
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X \ 10^s \\ L \ 5 \end{array} \right.$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X \ 30^s \\ L \ 15 \end{array} \right.$
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X \ 15^s \\ L \ 8 \end{array} \right.$	

This test appears to confirm the makers' claim that the new plate is twice as fast as any other plates on the market.

The grain of the Lumière plate is somewhat larger than that of other fast plates, but this will be no material disadvantage for purposes where speed is the first consideration.

The color curve is about the same as for other fast plates of standard American makes.

E. A. FATH.

LICK OBSERVATORY, July 23, 1908.

* This developer gives better results than either hydrochinone or dianol.

PERSONALS.

The superintendency of the observing station of the Carnegie Institution Expedition to the Argentine Republic having been offered to Astronomer TUCKER, the Regents of the University of California were pleased to grant him a three years' leave of absence in order that he might accept the appointment. It is understood that Director BOSS of the Dudley Observatory, Albany, who is in charge of the Southern Hemisphere work of the Carnegie Institution, accompanied by Professor TUCKER, will sail from New York in August.

Mr. WILLIAM H. WRIGHT, Assistant Astronomer in the Lick Observatory from 1897 to 1903 and from 1906 to 1908, and Acting Astronomer in charge of the D. O. Mills Expedition to Chile from 1903 to 1906, has been promoted to the position of Astronomer in the Lick Observatory.

Dr. SEBASTIAN ALBRECHT, a Fellow in the Lick Observatory during the years 1903-1906, and Carnegie Assistant in the years 1906-1908, has been promoted to the position of Assistant Astronomer in the Lick Observatory.

Mr. R. F. SANFORD, for two years past Carnegie Institution assistant in the Lick Observatory, has been appointed by Professor BOSS to act as an assistant to Professor TUCKER in the Argentine Republic.

Miss A. ESTELLE GLANCY, of the Class 1905, Wellesley College, and for the past two years an assistant in the Students' Observatory at Berkeley, has been appointed Fellow in the Lick Observatory.

W. W. CAMPBELL.